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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/726,423	12/01/2000	Koichi Shibata	009683-363	1425

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EXAMINER

ARANI, TAGHI T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2131

DATE MAILED: 10/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/726,423

Applicant(s)

SHIBATA, KOICHI

Examiner

Taghi T. Arani, Ph.D.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3 and 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-21 are pending for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Nezu, U.S. Patent 5,638,511, issued June 1997 .

As per claims 1, 8 and 15, Nezu teaches an apparatus/method and computer program product for printing an image, comprising :

a receiving unit (i.e. output means 2) receiving a print job data and a password [i.e. a collation key] corresponding to the print job data [col. 11, lines 55-67];

a storage device storing the print job data and the password received by said receiving unit in correspondence with each other [Fig. 3 (collation key storage means 7 and print job storage means 6), col. 12, lines 29-34] and ;

a password taking unit taking a password [col. 12, lines 37, i.e. a control means 9 retrieving the collation key stored in the collation key storage means 7] ; and

a control [Fig. 3, control means 9] permitting, when the password taken by said password taking unit matches the password stored in said storage device in correspondence with the print job data, print output of the print job data stored in said storage device in correspondence with said password [col. 12, lines 36-43];

wherein, said controller permits, when the password taken by said password taking unit is a prescribed password [col. 5, lines 31-37, i.e. a master code of a person who manages a print

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server stored in a the storage medium] different from the password stored in said storage device (i.e. a collation key corresponding to a print job] in correspondence with the print job data, a prescribed operation [unlocking an electronic lock stacker) on the print job data stored in said storage device.

As per claims 2, 9 and 16, Nezu teaches the apparatus/method and computer program product for printing an image according to claims 1, 8 and 15 respectively, wherein said prescribed operation includes cancellation of the print job data stored in said storage device [col. 6, lines 24-033, col. 7, lines 36-43].

As per claims 3, 10 and 17, Nezu teaches the apparatus/method and computer program products for printing an image according to claims 1, 8 and 15 respectively, wherein said prescribed operation includes print output of the print job data stored in said storage device [col. 6, lines 31-33].

As per claims 4, 11 and 18, Nezu teaches the apparatus for printing an image according to claims 1, 8 and 15 respectively, wherein said controller permits said prescribed operation for each print job data stored in said storage device [col. 17, lines 56-65].

As per claims 5, 12 and 19, Nezu teaches the apparatus/method and computer program product for printing an image according to claim 1, 8 and 15 respectively, wherein said password taking unit takes a password by receiving the password transmitted from an external device [col. 3, lines 11-20, i.e. a storage medium storing a collation key].

As per claim 6, 13 and 20, Nezu teaches the apparatus/method and computer program product for printing an image according to claims 1, 8 and 15 respectively, further comprising:

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an information taking unit taking information related to said prescribed operation [col. 13, lines 40-49 disclosing an external storage medium drive unit and an external storage medium drive control unit, col. 14, line 9 through col. 15, line 5, disclosing the data structure including information related to prescribed operation stored in the external storage medium]; wherein

said controller determines contents of said prescribed operation in accordance with the information taken by said information taking unit [col. 31, lines 57 through col. 32, line 14].

As per claims 7, 14 and 21, Nezu teaches the apparatus for printing an image according to claims 6, 13 and 20 respectively, wherein said password taking unit takes a password by receiving the password transmitted from an external device [col. 3, lines 40-64, i.e. collation key stored in an external storage medium]; and

said information taking unit, takes information by receiving the information related to said prescribed operation transmitted from said external device[col. 14, line 1 (external storage medium) through col. 15, line 46].

Prior art made of record, not relied upon.

US 2004/0179223 discloses an image forming apparatus for partial printing of an image.

US 6,163,383 is directed to print processing apparatus for performing an access control in which print instruction is sent in the form of various protocols.

US 2004/0008363 is directed to a user equipment issuing a job for a plurality of documents to a printing system by one operation.

US 6,515,765 discloses an image data management means performing the registration and printing of an image data .

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US 6,545,767 is directed to an image forming system which includes a print server and an image forming apparatus communicating with the print server and storing an identifier for each user.

US 5,673,373 is directed to an image forming system with security including a receiving section to receive print data with data showing secrecy attached from external equipment.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Taghi T. Arani whose telephone number is (703)305-4274. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:30 Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (703) 305-9648. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Taghi T. Arani, Ph.D.
Examiner
Art Unit 2131

E. L. Moise
EMMANUEL L. MOISE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
A/C 2131